Diseases at the Laribolsiere Hospital; Laureate of the Faculty of the Academy of Medicine. Translated and Edited with Additions by Abr. L. Wolbarst, M.D. Cystoscopist. Beth Israel Hospital; Consulting Urologist, Central Islip and Manhattan State Hospitals; Genito-Urinary Surgeon, West Side German Dispensary and Hospital; Author of "Gonorrhea in the Male," etc. 386 pages, with 217 figures in the text and 24 chromotopographic plates outside the text, including 76 drawings from original water colors. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1918. Cloth, \$7.50.

The reviewer has seen no work on cystoscopy which has aroused his admiration and interest as has this wonderful translation from the French. The historical section, the comparison of the various instruments and methods of cystoscopy and endoscopy, the innumerable colored plates executed with a rare skill so seldom found, the many clear cuts of pathological bladders and urethras, and the detailed descriptions of abnormalities so often hurriedly passed over in general works on urology, place this book in a class by itself. We have seen nothing to compare with it.

It does not attempt to deal with the entire urinary tract and hence does not even contain a description of any of the functional tests of the kidney. It limits its field to urethroscopy and cystoscopy, together with urethral catheterization. What the author has attempted he has accomplished in a way that arouses the admiration of the reader at every turn. In reproducing this work in English, Dr. Wolbarst has rendered a great service to American urology.

The Practical Medical Series, Volume VIII. Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Edited by Barnard Fantus, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Subdepartment of Therapeutics, Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., and Preventive Medicine, edited by Wm. A. Evans, M.D., LL.D., Ph.D., Professor of Preventive Medicine, Northwestern University Medical School. 367 pages. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, 1918. \$1.50. Complete series of ten volumes, \$10.00.

While a book of this size precludes a discussion of all drugs and therapeutic agents, the value of the book rests mainly on the suggestions which the authors make as to combining drugs, synergistic action, mode of administration, and no less important to the patient, relative cost of drugs having similar action. The first section of the book—that dealing with pharmacology and therapeutics—is decidedly practical in the treatment of the various agents at the doctor's disposal, and makes a strong appeal to the general practitioner. The latter part—that dealing with preventive medicine—makes its most patent plea to the sanitarian, the health officer and to the industrial surgeon. In addition to a discussion of the local question of sanitation, the author reviews in a very satisfactory way the results of the present war as regards death rates, prophylaxis and disease control.

The Essentials of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. For Nurses. By John Foster, M.D., Assistant Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica, Georgetown University School of Medicine. Third Edition; 310 pages. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1918. Cloth, \$1.75.

To cover the subject in a suitably brief text for nurses is indeed a difficult task, as the choice and classification of material must necessarily include only the important factors.

Here the classification is simple and well executed. However, the choice of material, in the reviewer's opinion, could be somewhat improved upon. There seems to be a tendency to digress to allied topics, and for a text of this kind a rather larger portion than necessary is intended for reference. The "Reference List of Drugs" alone contains seventy-eight pages, which is almost one-third of the reading matter in the book. In the formulary for practical use, in some instances the author employs the apothecary, and in others the metric system. The efficiency of the formulary would be considerably improved by expressing quantities in both systems in adjoining columns.

Materia Medica: Pharmacology, Therapeutics, Prescription Writing. For students and Practitioners. By Walter Ph.G. M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University. 2nd Edition. Reset. 664 pages. W. B. Saunders Co., 1918. Cloth, \$4.00.

The author exercises fine discretion in selecting and including the essential and in omitting the less important. The thoroughly modern discussion on digitalis and its group deserves especial commendation. The cuts of diagrams and photos are more numerous than ordinary in texts of this kind and lend added interest and illumination to the subjects under discussion. The thoroughness and completeness is well illustrated by the somewhat extended index, forty-eight pages of small type. This feature, which in some text-books is carelessly done, is carefully executed and adds greatly to value of the book as a reference work.

A Practical Text-Book of Infection, Immunity and Special Therapy, with special reference to immunologic technic. By John A. Kolmer, M.D., Dr.P.H., M.Sc., Assistant Professor of Experimental Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, with an introduction by Allen J. Smith, M.D., Professor of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania. Second Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Octavo of 378 pages with 147 original illustrations, 46 in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co., 1917. Cloth, \$7.00; half morocco, \$8.50.

In discussing this book, the writer is reminded of Bran, who in reviewing a book said that "the only way it could be made better would be by making it bigger." Dr. Kolmer takes up every phase of infection and immunity, and the literary style of the book would compare well with Osler's "Practice of Medicine."

The first chapter is devoted to general technique, which explains in a simple manner every detail of laboratory work, even the care and operation of the centrifugal machine being given. The chapter on immunity and the theories of immunity is very interestingly and beautifully written. This chapter is given in such a way that one having once read it, remembers it forever; and the writer demonstrates that he is not only a technician, but also one of the greatest teachers of our time.

The opsonic theory of Wright and Douglass and the methods of obtaining the opsonic index are clearly described. A chapter is devoted to vaccines and the effects of vaccines and auto-toxins. The Schick test is taken up in detail, and Dr. Kolmer explains the necessity of applying this test in localities in which diphtheria is found. The Albershalden test and all of the precipitin and agglutination tests are described, and the proper value placed upon each, including the technique of type determinations in pneumonia.

Complement-fixation tests are allotted a hundred pages or more, and an attempt is made to standardize the reagents and technique. The last chapter of the book is devoted to chemo-therapy. Part five, which is treated more as an addition to the original volume, takes up experimental therapy and immunity.

After looking the book over the reviewer wonders how anyone practicing medicine can get along without having studied it. Relatively few physicians can give a clear description of any of the theories of immunity or chemo-therapy. Yet we all use drugs, vaccines and serums. After reading this book we will know that a vaccine is an antigen, and being injected into a living organism produces an ambocceptor which unites with its specific antigen in the presence of complement. We will also learn that the anti-toxin, which is contained in the serum which we give in diphtheria, unites directly with, and neutralizes, the toxin of the disease; and that complement is not necessary for this reaction, the anti-body being an anti-body of the first order. We will probably infer from this that the reason why a gonococcus serum does not work so well is because we are dealing with an anti-body of the third order; and since the immune serum does not carry its own complement, we depend upon the patient to supply this necessary substance which he or she in numerous cases does not possess.

This book explains all of these mysteries, and if heeded would enable us to practice medicine in a much more scientific and intelligent manner than is at present the case.

Kirk's Handbook of Physiology. Revised and rewritten. By Charles Green, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Missouri. North American Edition. 509 illustrations, including many in colors. 970 pages. New York: W. B. Wood & Co., 1917. Cloth, \$1.75.

This book is so well known that praise would be presumption and criticism a crime. All that can be said of the work is that it is just as good as ever, and has

been revised and brought up to our modern standards of thought by Dr. Charles Wilson Green, the very able Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Missouri.

One chapter which deserves special mention is that on the requisites for normal diet. In it Dr. Green gives a very clear idea of a perfectly balanced diet. In addition to this he takes up the supplemental diet, especially the vitamins, and shows that in addition to a diet based upon caloric value, we must have another substance to which Funk applied the name vitamins. Attention is called to this fact for the reason that the value of the vitamins is not clearly understood by the average practitioner of medicine. Redwood at a meeting of one of our largest Southern medical societies the question of their function and value was discussed at length; and even though several prominent gastro-enterologists were present, a clear and definite description of their function was never given.

The chapter on ductless glands and their effect on the metabolism is complete and will furnish interesting and instructive reading to everyone practicing medicine.

Taken as a whole, the book may be said to be a necessary part of every physician or student's library, and one which is indispensable to anyone practicing modern scientific medicine.

What Men Live By and Other Stories. By Leo Tolstol. Boston: The Stratford Co., 1918. Boards, 25 cents.

"Sometimes short stories are brought together like parcels in a basket. Sometimes they grow together like blossoms on a bush. Then, of course, they really belong to one another, because they have the same life," says Henry Van Dyke in his preface to the "Blue Flower"; and this is a truth which every publisher of short stories might well keep in mind. The source of the life may be one or more things: character, setting, or theme. Often we find a book of stories centered around one character or group of characters. In this type of book it is easy to find the connecting link. It is more difficult clearly to maintain the connection in stories that center around setting. The real task comes, though, when the theme alone makes for unity.

In "What Men Live By and Other Stories" the publisher has been unusually successful. The whole book is the expression of one of the same religion of a great, but simple man; a religion stripped of all form, and which seeks expression in everyday life—its cornerstone being the love of mankind, its apex being a deep respect for the religions of other men.

"What Men Live By," the story from which the volume takes its title, is perhaps Tolstol's best known short story. It is the story of an angel who is sent to earth by God to learn three lessons: what dwells in man, what is not given to man, and what men live by. It is a beautiful story of the far-seeing fatherhood of God and of charity among men. When the angel has learned the lessons he turns to Simon the shoemaker, with whom he has lived, and says, "All men live not by the thought they spend on their own welfare, but because love exists in man."

"Three Questions" is the story of a king who seeks guidance from a hermit. He receives such sound advice that it were well had we each a copy of the hermit's reply where it could be seen every hour of the day.

"The Coffee-House of Surat" and "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" are the other two stories contained in this little volume. The first is an intense argument among men of all faiths as to which is the true faith. The Chinaman, the student of Confucius, compares God to the sun and the different religions to its rays. "Therefore," he says, "let him who sees the sun's whole light filling the world refrain from blaming or despising the superstitious man who, in his own idol, sees one ray of that light. Let him not despise even the unbeliever, who is blind and cannot see at all."

"How Much Land Does a Man Need?" the last story, sets forth the futility of sacrificing life for earthly possessions. Pahom had, as the Chief said, gained much land, but six feet from his head to his heels was all he could use.

Stories of the Steppe. By Maxim Gorki. Boston: The Stratford Company, 1918. Boards, 25 cents.

The way of the translator is hard. He must, like the doctrine of transubstantiation, convert one substance into another substance palatable enough and not too

unfamiliar to be consumed with relish by the "reading public" into whose language he is translating. It is questionable whether the innermost spirit of the literature of one land and people is ever wholly understood by another land and people, be the translator never so successful in his task.

Of all foreign literature Russian fiction has perhaps been most successfully translated into English; and yet what American reading the great Russians in English has not occasionally wondered secretly just what the characters were doing and why they were doing it? The efforts of the translators to unscure the inscrutable Slav soul with English as the tool have often left much to be desired. The phrase, "done into English," is frequently only too true.

How delightful it is, therefore, to encounter a perfect, soul-satisfying translation in the shape of "Stories of the Steppe," by Maxim Gorki, translated by Henry T. Schlittkind and Isaac Goldberg, with an introduction by the former. All gratitude and honor to these masters of two languages whose colorful, winged words carry the reader over the mournful Russian Steppe into the heart of Gorki!

The three stories so happily chosen for this volume are "Makkar Chudra," "Because of Monotony" and "The Man Who Could Not Die." The first, a gypsy tale, dark and fiercely glowing, might be the very words to the music of Liszt's Second Hungarian Rhapsody, so full is it of wild ecstasy and pain. The last also is a gypsy legend of "what happened many thousands of years ago" to Larra, whom God punished for overweening pride.

The second tale, "Because of Monotony," is the bright particular story of the group, one of the most poignant and pitiful short stories ever written. It is quite impossible to convey in a brief critique the depth, power and realism of its tragedy—a woman's tragedy. It offers no comment, presents no philosophy, simply and with dramatic force tells a sorry tale, ringing with cruel laughter.

As an earnest of the singing warmth of Mr. Schlittkind's English, as well as a very adequate criticism of Gorki's three stories, we quote a passage from his introduction:

"Maxim Gorki, the Bitter Voice of Russia, can tell fairy tales whose coloring has all the richness of Oriental twilight, and whose cadences are garlands woven of sea-spray and wind-blossoms. . . . He who has no love for music had better leave these stories alone, as they will have no charm for him. But those who have the capacity for enjoying the silent music of the night, the barely audible purring of waves in the distance, the soft pit-a-pat of the wind-dance on the prairie, will be charmed by those stories as they have rarely been charmed in their waking hours."

Southern Medical News

ALABAMA

Dr. W. W. Dinsmore, formerly State Prison Inspector, has accepted the post as Assistant Federal Director of the Travelers Insurance Company. He will make his headquarters in the home office at Hartford, Conn.

Dr. H. C. Crally, Birmingham, has been appointed City Physician to succeed Dr. Cecil Gaston, who has been given leave of absence for the duration of the war.

Dr. Glenn Andrew Montgomery, has been appointed to succeed Dr. W. W. Dinsmore, resigned, as State Prison Inspector.

The Jefferson County Board of Health has begun an active and extensive health survey of the County and surrounding vicinity.

Deaths

Dr. J. F. Walker, Anniston, aged 71, died at his home during July.

Dr. V. H. Watson, Dothan, died at his home during July.

ARKANSAS

Dr. J. G. Cullins, Junction City, appointed to the U. S. Public Health Service, has been assigned to Little Rock for duty.